

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus comprises a buffer comprising a plurality of entries, an insert
5 pointer, a delete pointer, a plurality of first control circuits coupled to the buffer, and a
second control circuit coupled to the buffer. The entries are logically divided into a
plurality of groups. Each of the first control circuits corresponds to a respective group
and selects an entry from the respective group for potential reading from the buffer.
Furthermore, each of the first control circuits, in the event that the delete pointer indicates
10 a first entry in the respective group and the insert pointer wraps around the buffer and
indicates a second entry in the respective group, selects the first entry if the first entry is
eligible for selection. The second control circuit selects a first group, and the entry
selected from the first group by the first control circuits is the entry read from the buffer.